(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of All India Radio Stations by setting up one powerful station for each State and thereby saving huge expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the All India Radio Audience Survey conducted during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2006-07, AIR listenership was 310 million, 340 million and 357 million respectively. This clearly indicates increasing trend of listenership/ listeners of AIR. Number of viewers of Doordarshan are adequate in view of the large Doordarshan Network and the amount of public money spent on it. Number of Doordarshan viewers for the last three years as per the study report of Indian Readership Survey is as under:

Year	DDI National	DD News
2007	95934000	59995000
2006	92431000	57982000
2005	89356000	54715000

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati have informed that there is no such proposal to reduce the number of AIR Stations by setting up one powerful Station for each State and thereby saving huge expenditure. Power consumption of a single powerful Station is much more than that required by smaller Stations to cover the populated area.

Low earning of labourers in India

1342. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the despite more and more investment in Asia (including India) and Pacific zone, unemployment is increasing in our country;

(b) whether it is fact that more than 100 million labourers earn less than 2 dollars a day and one-third of them are compelled to work for less than a dollar a day;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government is contemplating to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per National Sample Survey Organisation 61st round Survey Report-2004-05, unemployment rate on current daily status basis has increased from 6.1% in 1993-94 to 7.3% in 1999-2000, and further to 8.35% in 2004-05. This was because the working age population grew faster than total population and labour force participation rates increased, particularly among women.

(b) and (c) The Global Employment Trends, January, 2008 published by International Labour Organisation, *inter alia*, indicated working poverty rates for South Asia, which includes India, were 33% for US$ 1 a day and 80.3% for US$ 2 a day based on preliminary estimates for 2007. This report indicates that high working poor share is mainly the result of the continuing low levels of productivity.

(d) Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan is to encourage the organised sector to employ more labour and simultaneously, to improve labour productivity in the unorganised sector. It aims at making employment generation an integral part of the growth process and devise strategies to accelerate not only growth of employment but also of wages of poorly paid.

Efforts are also being made to identify and implement systemic reforms in administration of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) so as to facilitate closer interaction with the industry in order to improve quality of training, make the graduates better employable and help them earn decent wages.

Increase in child labour despite ban

1343. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instances of child labour are increasing despite a ban on it in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Human Rights Commission has issued notices to some State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the funds released and utilized for abolition of child labour during each of the last three years, State-wise, programme-wise and its impact on the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in 15 occupations and 57 processes. However, Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government is following a sequential approach of first covering the children working in hazardous occupations/processes. Census is the most authentic data on child labour in the country. As per Census 2001, there are 12.6 million working children in country out of which about 12 lakhs are working in hazardous occupations/processes.

(c) and (d) Based on their reviews, the National Human Rights Commission from time to time issues notices to various State Governments. The State Governments are required to submit their action taken reports directly to the NHRC.

(e) Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for the rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work in 250 districts in the country. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from work put into Special Schools where they are provided accelerated bridging education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition and health care facilities etc. Under the Scheme, so far, 4.57 lakh children have been mainstreamed into regular education system. In addition, another project, namely INDUS Child Labour Project is being implemented since 2004 in collaboration with the US Department of Labour in 21 districts of the country. Children mainstreamed under INDUS Project so far are 18,961. Details of grants released under these Schemes during last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.